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## Dancer Choreographer

### **What is this job like?**

Dancers and choreographers use dance performances to express ideas and stories.

There are many types of dance, such as ballet, tango, modern dance, tap, and jazz.

Dancers spend years learning dances and perfecting their skills. They usually perform as part of a group and know a variety of dance

styles, including ballet, musical theater, and modern dance. In addition to traditional performances in front of a live audience, many perform on TV, in videos on the Internet, and in music videos, where they also may sing or act. Many dancers perform in shows at casinos, theme parks, and on cruise ships.

Choreographers create original dances and develop new interpretations of existing dances. They work in theaters, dance companies, and movie studios. During rehearsals, they typically demonstrate dance moves, to instruct dancers in the proper technique. Many choreographers also perform the dance routines they create. Some choreographers work with performers who are not trained dancers. For example, the

complex martial arts scenes performed by actors in movies are arranged by choreographers who specialize in martial arts.

### **How do you get ready?**

Education and training requirements vary with the type of dancer; however, all dancers need many years of formal training. Nearly all choreographers began their careers as dancers.

### **How much does this job pay?**

The median hourly wage for dancers was \$13.74 in May 2016. The median hourly wage for choreographers was \$23.19 in May 2016.

### **How many jobs are there?**

Dancers and choreographers held about 20,100 jobs in 2014. About 1 in 7 were self-employed.

## What about the future?

Employment of dancers and choreographers is projected to grow 5 percent from 2014 to 2024, about as fast as the average for all occupations.

A growing interest in dance and in pop culture may provide opportunities in dance schools and in fields outside of dance companies.

However, dancers and choreographers face intense competition, and the number of applicants is expected to vastly exceed the number of job openings.

Some information on this page has been provided by the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**More details** ↓

## Featured Dancer Choreographers



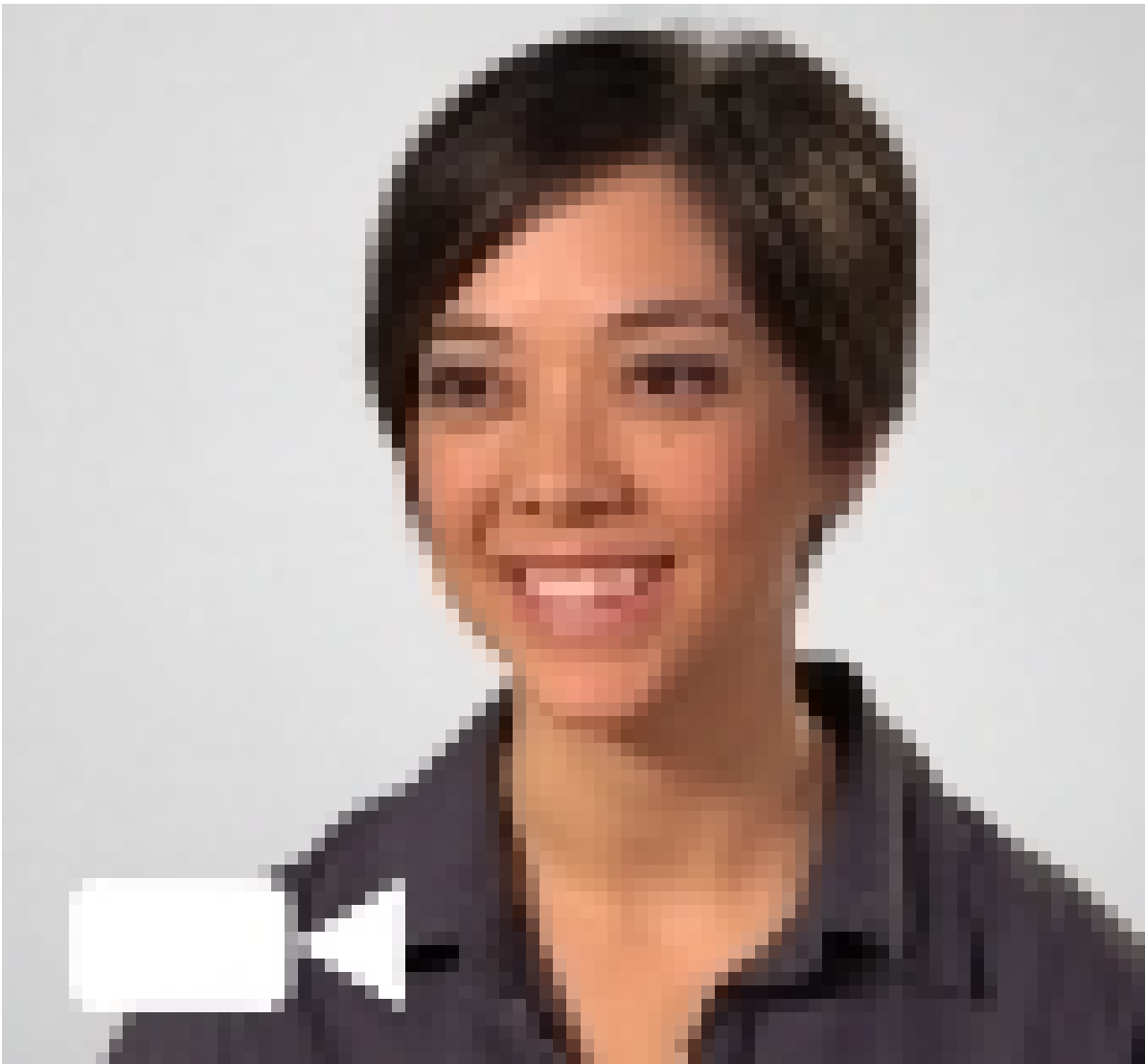
**(/careers/dancer)**

**Chloe (/careers/dancer)**



**(/careers/ballerina)**

**Erica (/careers/ballerina)**



**(/careers/dancer-choreographer-1)**

**Irene (/careers/dancer-choreographer-1)**



**(/careers/dancer-and-filmmaker)**

**Jamila (/careers/dancer-and-filmmaker)**





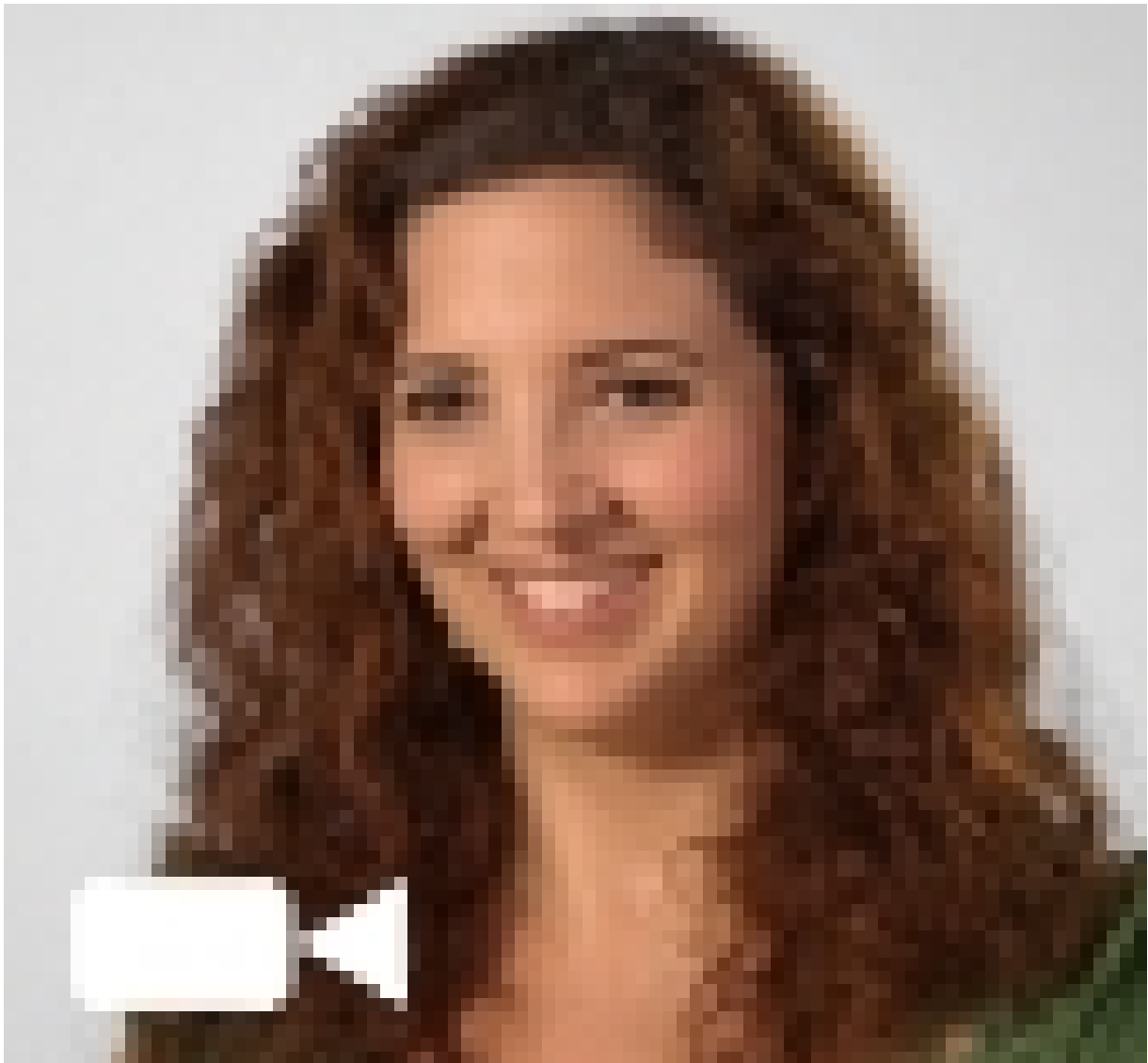
**(/careers/dancer-choreographer-0)**

**Katrina (/careers/dancer-choreographer-0)**



**(/careers/ballerina-0)**

**Kiara (/careers/ballerina-0)**



**(/careers/dancer-choreographer-3)**

**Laura (/careers/dancer-choreographer-3)**



**(/careers/dancer-0)**

**Rachael (/careers/dancer-0)**



**(/careers/dancer-choreographer-2)**

**Sadie (/careers/dancer-choreographer-2)**



**(/careers/dancer-choreographer)**

**Sandra (/careers/dancer-choreographer)**

College Courses:

Sample courses that might be required for a degree in Dance:

## **Dance Technique Courses**

- Ballet

- Modern
- Jazz
- Pointe and Pas de Deux

## **Dance Choreography**

- Improvisation
- Structure Solos
- Group Forms
- Environmental

## **Dance Performance Courses**

- Ballet
- Musical Theatre
- University Dance Company

## **Dance Theory/History/Courses**

- Rhythm and Music Structure
- World Dance

- Ideokinesis (an approach to the improvement of human posture and body movement)
- Video for Dance
- Dance for Children
- Dance History

Colleges will also require you to take some core undergraduate courses in addition to some electives. Required core courses and electives will vary from college to college. Here are a number of examples:

## **Arts and Humanities**

- Arts
- History
- Languages
- Literature
- Music

## **Math**



- Algebra
- Calculus
- Computer Science
- Logic
- Statistics

## **Natural Sciences**

- Astronomy
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Physics

## **Social Sciences**

- Anthropology
- Economics
- Government
- Psychology
- Sociology

## Useful links:

NASD (<http://nasd.arts-accredit.org/>) - National Association of Schools of Dance

Dance USA (<http://www.danceusa.org/>) - National service organization for professional dance

NDEO ([http://www.ndeo.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=893257&module\\_id=53058](http://www.ndeo.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=893257&module_id=53058)) - National Dance Education Organization student programs

Dancers and Choreographers (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/entertainment-and-sports/dancers-and-choreographers.htm>) - Bureau of Labor Statistics

Jacob's Pillow (<http://www.jacobspillow.org/>) - Prestigious dance festival and school